

Appl. No. 09/976,553

Amdt. dated April 13, 2004

Response to Office Action Mailed March 4, 2004

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for cutting a Venetian blind comprising a head rail, a bottom rail, and a plurality of blind slats, the apparatus comprising:

a body defining a head rail opening, at least one blind slats opening, and a bottom rail opening;

a rotatable plate, the plate comprising a head rail aperture and configured to cut the head rail;

a linearly movable blade assembly, the blade assembly configured to cut the bottom rail and the plurality of blind slats as the blade assembly is moved linearly;

a drive mechanism operatively connected to the plate and the blade assembly, whereby the drive mechanism causes the plate to rotate to cut the head rail while concurrently causing the blade assembly to move to cut the bottom rail and plurality of blind slats non-sequentially.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the blade assembly comprises a blade housing, the blade housing supporting a first blade for cutting the bottom rail, and a second blade for cutting the plurality of blind slats.

3. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the first blade is configured to cut a bottom rail having an open profile.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the first blade is configured to cut a bottom rail having a closed profile.

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5. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the first blade cuts the bottom rail along its long cross-sectional axis.
6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the drive mechanism is manually operated.
7. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 further including an adjustable end guide adjacent to the body, whereby the end guide is configured to contact the head rail, bottom rail, and blind slats when a desired length of the head rail, the bottom rail, and the blind slats are passed through the body.
8. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the end guide further comprises an end guide lock.
9. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the end guide is operatively connected to the drive such that the end guide is movable to allow cut blind pieces to be removed.
10. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a support juxtaposed to the body, wherein the support includes at least one bracket configured to support at least the head rail, the bottom rail and the blind slats.
11. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a blind slats clamp.
12. (original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the head rail aperture has a profile corresponding to a cross section of the head rail.
13. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the head rail aperture further comprises tooth-like projections for piercing the head rail.

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14. (currently amended) A cutting machine for a Venetian blind comprising a head rail, a bottom rail, and a plurality of blind slats, the cutting machine comprising:

a body defining a head rail opening, a bottom rail opening, and at least one opening for the plurality of blind slats;

a plate for cutting the head rail, the plate defining a head rail aperture through which an end of the head rail is received;

a blade assembly comprising a blade housing and at least one blade for cutting the bottom rail and the blind slats;

a drive mechanism operatively connected to the plate and the blade assembly, the drive mechanism causing the plate to rotate about a die axis and to cut the head rail, the drive mechanism further causing the blade assembly to move linearly to cut the bottom rail and the blind slats, wherein the head rail, the bottom rail, and the blind slats are cut non-sequentially and at the same time.

15. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the blade housing supports a first blade for cutting the bottom rail, and a second blade for cutting the plurality of blind slats.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the first blade is configured to cut a bottom rail having a open profile.

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the first blade is configured to cut a bottom rail having a closed profile.

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18. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the drive mechanism is manually operated.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 further including an adjustable end guide adjacent to the body, whereby the end guide is configured to contact the head rail, bottom rail, and blind slats when a desired length of the head rail, the bottom rail, and the blind slats are extended through the body.

20. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the end guide further comprises an end guide lock.

21. (original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the end guide is operatively connected to the drive such that the end guide is movable to allow cut blind pieces to be removed.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a support juxtaposed to the body, wherein the support includes at least one bracket configured to support at least the head rail, the bottom rail and the blind slats.

23. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a blind slats clamp.

24. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the head rail aperture has a profile corresponding to a cross section of the head rail.

25. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the head rail aperture further comprises tooth-like projections for piercing the head rail.

26. (currently amended) A cutting machine for a Venetian blind comprising a head rail, a bottom rail, and a plurality of blind slats, the cutting machine comprising:

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a body defining a head rail opening, a bottom rail opening, and two blind slat openings;

a plate for cutting the head rail, the plate defining a head rail aperture through which an end of the head rail is received, the head rail aperture having a profile corresponding to a cross section of the head rail, and including at least one tooth-like projection;

a blade assembly comprising a blade housing, a first blade for cutting the bottom rail, and a second blade for cutting the blind slats;

a manually controlled drive mechanism operatively connected to the plate and the blade assembly, the drive mechanism causing the plate to rotate about a die axis and cut the head rail, the drive mechanism further causing the blade assembly to move linearly to cut the bottom rail and the blind slats, wherein the head rail, the bottom rail, and the blind slats are cut non-sequentially and at the same time;

an adjustable end guide, whereby the end guide is configured to contact the head rail, bottom rail, and blind slats when a desired length of the head rail, the bottom rail, and the blind slats are passed through the body;

27. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the end guide further comprises an end guide lock.

28. (original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the end guide is operatively connected to the drive mechanism such that the drive mechanism moves the end guide to allow cut blind pieces to be removed.

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29. (original) The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising a support juxtaposed to the body, wherein the support includes at least one bracket configured to support at least the head rail, the bottom rail and the blind slats.

30. (original) The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising a blind slats clamp.

31. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the first blade is configured to cut a bottom rail having an open profile.

32. (original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the first blade is configured to cut a bottom rail having a closed profile.

33. (original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the first blade cuts the bottom rail along its long cross-sectional axis.

34. (original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the first blade has a pointed shape.

35. (original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the second blade has a shape substantially corresponding to the profile of the blind slats.

36. (currently amended) A method of cutting a Venetian blind, having a head rail, a bottom rail, and a plurality of blind slats, said method comprising the steps of:

inserting a first end of the head rail through a head rail opening in a body and through at least one head rail aperture in a die;

inserting a first end of the bottom rail through a bottom rail opening in the body;

inserting a first end of the plurality of blind slats through at least one blind slats opening in the body;

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causing a drive mechanism to move at least a portion of the die such that the head rail is cut by the rotational movement of at least a portion of the die;

causing the drive mechanism to move a blade assembly such that the bottom rail and plurality of blind slats are cut by the blade assembly;

wherein cutting the head rail and cutting the bottom rail and plurality of blind slats is non-sequential and occurs at the same time.

37. (original) The method of claim 36 further including the step of securing a portion of the plurality of blind slats with a blind slats clamp.

38. (original) The method of claim 36 wherein the cutting of the bottom rail and plurality of blind slats includes causing the drive mechanism to move the blade assembly linearly along a path which intersects with the first end of the bottom rail and the first end of the plurality of blind slats.

39. (currently amended) An apparatus for non-sequential cutting of a Venetian blind comprising a head rail, a bottom rail, and a plurality of blind slats, the apparatus comprising:

a body means for receiving through a head rail opening in the body means the head rail, the body means further receiving through a bottom rail opening in the body means the bottom rail, the body means further receiving through at least one blind slats opening the plurality of blind slats;

a head rail cutter means for cutting the head rail;

a bottom rail and blind slats cutter means for cutting the bottom rail and blind slats; and

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a drive means for moving the head rail cutter means and the bottom rail and blind slats cutter means at the same time wherein the head rail cutter means is moved rotationally.

40. (original) The apparatus of claim 39 further comprising an end guide means for measuring the head rail, the bottom rail, and the blind slats to be cut.

41. (original) The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the end guide means is movable in response to actuation of the drive means.

42. (original) The apparatus of claim 40 further comprising a blind slats clamping means for securing the plurality of blind slats within the blind slats opening.

43. (original) The apparatus of claim 39 further comprising a blind support means for holding at least portions of the head rail, the bottom rail and the blind slats.

44. (original) The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the drive means is manually operated.